

*Midwives in Heber
Utah*



Christina
Lindsay

In the fall of 1863, Christina married George Muir as his plural wife and two sons were born to her, John and George. She took up a homestead in Center Creek and lived on it to obtain title. This land she gave to her sons, John and George Muir. During the years Mrs. Muir served as a midwife in Heber Valley, she traveled from town to town in a buggy, wagon, or on horseback in all kinds of weather. When she was too old to continue nursing the residents of Heber gave a party in her honor to show their appreciation for her many years of service. Christina passed away July 25, 1906, at the age of eighty-three years. — Hazel Lindsay Giles

THEY ANSWERED THE CALL TO SERVE

Helen Alcy Tanner Maxfield was born Dec. 18, 1839, in New Liberty, Illinois, the daughter of Nathan and Rachel Winter Smith Tanner. She came to Utah with her father's family, in the *Amara Lyman Company*, arriving October 13, 1848.

In 1857 Helen Alcy married Elijah Hiatt Maxfield, son of John Ellis and Elizabeth Baker Maxfield, pioneers of 1851. Ten days after their marriage, her husband was called to go east and help bring in a stranded handcart company. After being gone two months, the company arrived hungry and almost frozen. The following spring he was called with an expedition to build stations, roads, raise hay and grain, and help the Saints on the latter part of their journey. It was called the YX or Young Expedition. He rode with the Pony Express; stood guard; carried supplies and mail to Echo Canyon, and fought Indians. Helen Alcy was alone most of the time the first years of their marriage, taking care of herself and helping others, which she ably did.

When Johnston's Army came through, she, her husband and her mother, were called to go to Cedar Valley to herd and protect the family stock, horses, cows and sheep. They returned in August, and moved to Big Cottonwood Canyon for the purpose of making lumber for the army. She cooked, washed and mended for about 25 men. On the 7th of Feb. 1859, their first child, a son, Hiatt Elijah was born.

Helen Alcy possessed a natural talent for nursing and caring for the sick. She was often on maternity cases. In 1861 Francis M. Lyman set her apart to be a midwife. She was alert. She had attended the schools of Salt Lake City. She was always reading and searching for knowledge from every available source on this subject. The first baby she delivered, after being set apart as a midwife, was James Osterman (Doctor). He was born in 1861.

In November 1862, the Maxfields were called by Brigham Young, to go to Dixie. Here, Helen Alcy helped the sick and suffering; gave comfort and good will to those with whom she came in contact. Often her baby was placed under a sagebrush while she picked cotton and

Christina Howie Lindsay Muir, the eldest child of William Blackwood Howie, was born July 3, 1823, at Craighall, Scotland. When twenty-one years of age she married William Lindsay. They were members of the Mormon Church and their home was the gathering place for missionaries from Utah. William was killed in the coal mines. Before his untimely death, he and Christina had made plans to take their eight children to join the body of the Church in Utah and Christina was determined to carry out that plan. With the aid of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund she with her family boarded the sailing vessel *John J. Boyd* in Liverpool, England for the voyage across the Atlantic. Arriving in New York harbor she and the children made their way to Florence, Nebraska where the westward trek began.

Mrs. Lindsay arrived in Heber Valley in September, 1862, and during the first years the family experienced the many hardships typical of pioneer living on the frontier. She traded clothing for a place to live and a cow, bound wheat in the fields, cooked for men working on the railroad, while the boys hired out to supplement the family income. The baby, Elizabeth, died two weeks after her arrival in her new home.

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the mother of five children, three sons and two daughters. Her husband joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in September 1837 and she became a member March 25, 1838. The Clegg family were among the many converts who sailed on the ship *Horizon* under the supervision of Edward Martin. When they arrived in Iowa City, Iowa, they were assigned to the handcart company under the same leader.

During this tragic trek across the plains Ellen and her good husband would take their lantern and go from tent to tent doing everything in their power to relieve the suffering of the men, women and children. The company arrived in Salt Lake City on the 30th of November, and a few days later the Cleggs left for Provo, Utah County, and then moved to Provo Valley, later called Heber. After she was settled in her new home "Grandma Clegg" continued to bestow love and comfort to those around her. More than one poor mother had reason to bless the name and remember the kindness of Ellen Clegg, midwife. Sometimes she had to go on horseback, sometimes in a sleigh, and more often she had to walk, but her one great thought was that she was going to help some suffering mother struggling in the valley of the shadow of death to give life and happiness to a mother of God's children. Many of the younger children at that time thought Ellen Clegg was really their own grandmother, because they had been taught to call her "Grandma Clegg." At the age of eighty-four years, on October 30, 1899, Ellen Clegg passed away. — Ethel D. Johnson

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